

MARVEL[®]
COMICS



SEPT
#379

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AUTHORITY

DAREDEVIL[®]

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

FLYING
BLIND
PART 4



-Cully-
LOBBELL
HAMNER
MARTIN

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FACE TO FACE
WITH THE
TRUTH!



FLYING

SCOTT LOBDELL
WRITER

CULLY HAMNER
PENCILER

JASON MARTIN
INKER

MELISSA EDWARDS
COLORS

THIS IS

URMP

NOT GOING
AS WELL AS
I PLANNED.



RS & COMICRAFT'S
LIZ AGRAPHOTIS
LETTERS

TIM TUOHY
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

BLIND

4 OF 4

APPARENTLY, THE BIG GUY'S NAME IS **WILSON FISK**.

HE'S CALLED THE **KINGPIN**.

ME? I'D BE COMFORTABLE CALLING HIM **REALLY FAT GUY** **STANDING ON MY THROAT** --

-- BUT AS IT IS, I'M IN NO POSITION TO **TALK** JUST NOW.

OW.

THE MAN NAMED **SYNAPSE** IS JUST THIS MOMENT COMING AROUND.

WITH **ANY** LUCK, I HURT HIM **BADLY** ENOUGH THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE HIS MIND ALTERING **BIO-ELECTRIC** POWERS ON ME.

THEN AGAIN... MAYBE I **COULD** USE AN ENTIRELY NEW **PERSPECTIVE** ON LIFE.

CERTAINLY **REALITY** ISN'T SUCH A **JOY** TO BEHOLD AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

K-KILL HIM, **FISK**! HE KNOWS TOO MUCH.

EVENTUALLY.

BUT BEFORE I **DO**, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS MAN THAT IS SO ACHINGLY... **FAMILIAR**.

HIS **UNIFORM** INDICATES HE IS AN **AGENT** OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.** --

-- BUT THERE'S **SOMETHING** ABOUT THE WAY HE MOVES, THE WAY HE **FIGHTS**. ALMOST AS IF HE IS --

SAY IT!

WHAT AM I?

WHO AM I?!

BUT, **NO**... THAT IS **IMPOSSIBLE**.

STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION
ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE

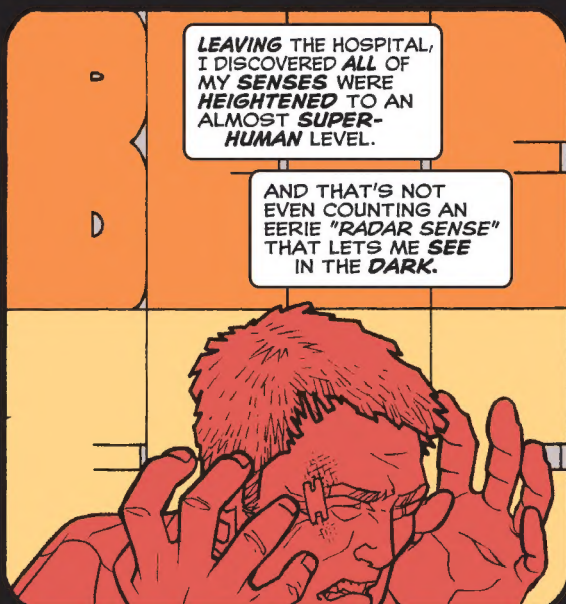
HAVE I USED THE WORD **FRUSTRATED** YET?



AND FOR ABOUT THE **HUNDRED THOUSANDTH** TIME IN THE LAST TWO DAYS --

-- I ASK MYSELF **HOW** IT IS THAT I GOT **INVOLVED** IN ALL OF THIS?

I REMEMBER **WAKING UP** IN A HOSPITAL BED, BELIEVING I WAS AN **ARTIST** NAMED **LAURENT LEVASSEUR**.



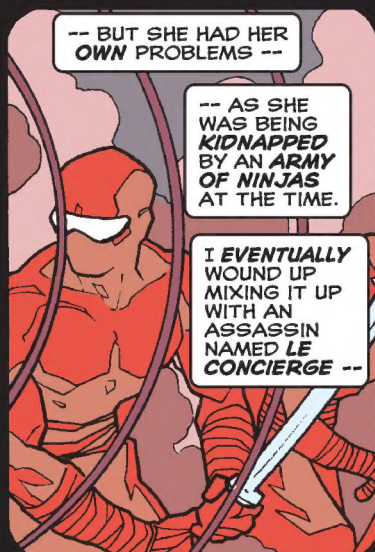
LEAVING THE HOSPITAL, I DISCOVERED **ALL** OF MY **SENSES** WERE **HEIGHTENED** TO AN ALMOST **SUPER-HUMAN** LEVEL.

AND THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING AN EERIE "**RADAR SENSE**" THAT LETS ME **SEE** IN THE **DARK**.



THINGS GOT **WEIRDER** WHEN I RETURNED HOME TO DISCOVER **RED BATTLE GEAR** IN MY CLOSET.

I SOUGHT OUT THE **E.R. DOCTOR**, **CLAUDIA DUBOIS** --



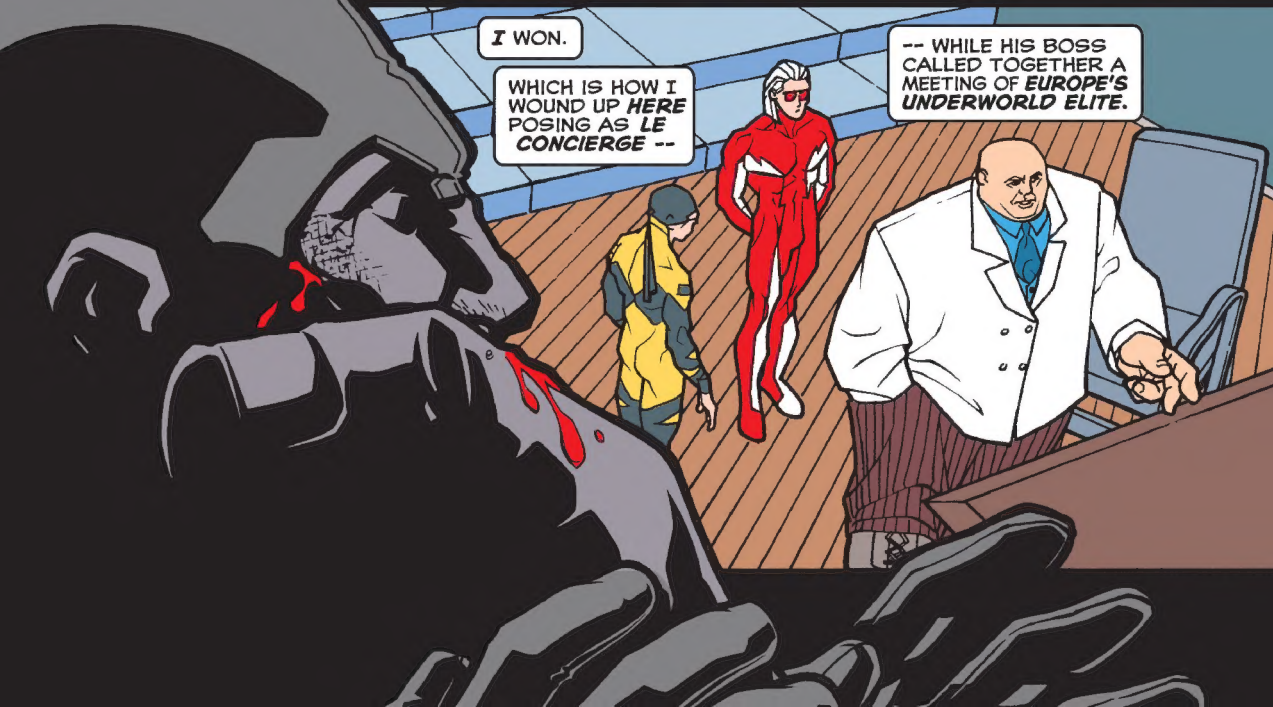
-- BUT SHE HAD HER **OWN** PROBLEMS --

-- AS SHE WAS BEING **KIDNAPPED** BY AN **ARMY OF NINJAS** AT THE TIME.

I **EVENTUALLY** WOUND UP MIXING IT UP WITH AN **ASSASSIN** NAMED **LE CONCIERGE** --



-- WHO HAD HIS **OWN** REASONS FOR WANTING ME **NOT** TO FIND **CLAUDIA**.



I **WON**.

WHICH IS HOW I WOUND UP **HERE** POSING AS **LE CONCIERGE** --

-- WHILE HIS BOSS CALLED TOGETHER A MEETING OF **EUROPE'S UNDERWORLD ELITE**.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S **AMERICAN**, HE CLEARLY HAD THE ATTENTION OF SOME OF EUROPE'S MOST **INFLUENTIAL** MOVERS AND SHAKERS.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR **INTRODUCTIONS**, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN **PART** BECAUSE NONE OF YOU WISH TO BE IDENTIFIED.

LET IT **SUFFICE** TO SAY YOU ARE SOME OF THE MOST **"POWERFUL"** PEOPLE IN YOUR **RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**.

FOR **YEARS**, YOU HAVE BEEN AT THE MERCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS **S.H.I.E.L.D.** --

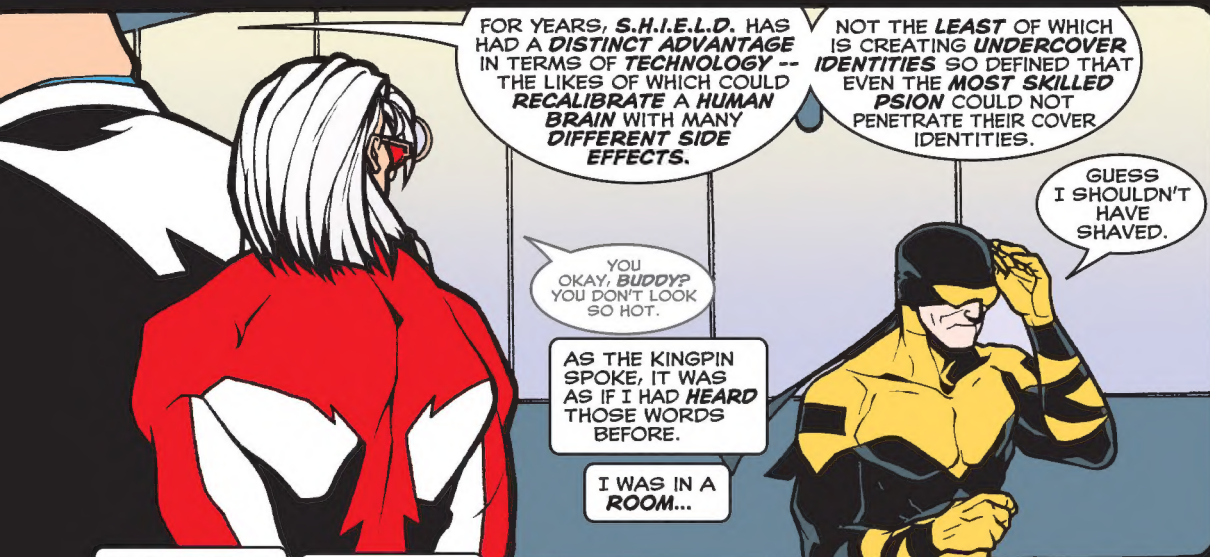
-- WHO HAVE TAKEN **GREAT PAINS** TO INSURE YOUR **SPHERE OF INFLUENCE** EXPANDED NO FARTHER THAN YOUR OWN COUNTRY.

STRATEGIC HAZARD
INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE
LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE

SO I HAD **HEARD**.

THAT **ENDS** TONIGHT.

THAT IS IT ENDS TONIGHT FOR THOSE **WILLING** TO PAY MY **PRICE**.



FOR YEARS, **S.H.I.E.L.D.** HAS HAD A **DISTINCT ADVANTAGE** IN TERMS OF **TECHNOLOGY** -- THE LIKES OF WHICH COULD **RECALIBRATE** A **HUMAN BRAIN** WITH MANY **DIFFERENT SIDE EFFECTS**.

NOT THE **LEAST** OF WHICH IS CREATING **UNDERCOVER IDENTITIES** SO DEFINED THAT EVEN THE **MOST SKILLED PSION** COULD NOT PENETRATE THEIR COVER IDENTITIES.

GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHAVED.

YOU OKAY, **BUDDY**? YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT.

AS THE KINGPIN SPOKE, IT WAS AS IF I HAD **HEARD** THOSE WORDS BEFORE.

I WAS IN A **ROOM...**

"**DAREDEVIL...**" HE SAID...

"...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY **S.H.I.E.L.D.** NEEDS YOU?"



I...GUESS THAT'S HOW I CAME TO BE **WORKING UNDERCOVER** FOR **S.H.I.E.L.D.** THIS WAY.

DEEP UNDERCOVER.

BUT... WHAT **KIND** OF NAME IS **DAREDEVIL**?



I HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY **AROUND** THAT TECHNOLOGY WITH THE USE OF A **HUMAN BEING** CAPABLE OF **REIMPRINTING** THE SYNAPSES OF A BRAIN.



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE **MAX MULLINS**, A FORMER **S.H.I.E.L.D.** AGENT NAMED **SYNAPSE**.

HI, **EVERY** --

HE IS MY **KEY** TO UNDERMINING **ALL** OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.'S** EUROPEAN OPERATIONS.

WELL, MAYBE NOT **ALL** OF THEM...



SPLendid SHOW, **OLD** MAN.

SO, HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO **COST** US?

25% OF EVERY ENDEAVOR IN WHICH YOU'RE **INVOLVED**.

AND BEFORE YOU **BALK** AT THAT **MODEST SUM**, LET ME OFFER AN **EXAMPLE** OF HOW THIS PROCESS WORKS...





I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.

LAST WEEK, DR. DUBOIS HAD THE UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE OF ENCOUNTERING A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT WHO HAD RECENTLY UNDERGONE A REWIRING OF HIS MIND.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HER "WEEK FOR WEIRDOS."

?!



THAT'S ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS SHE SAID TO ME.

I REALIZED THEN SHE WAS JUST WAITING FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING --

-- BUT WHAT?

NOW SHE WILL SERVE AS A LIVING EXAMPLE TO YOU PEOPLE.

WITHIN MOMENTS, SIX YEARS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION -- NOT TO MENTION EVERY MEMORY OF HER OWN -- WILL BE REPLACED WITH ALL NEW THOUGHTS.

WHETHER THAT IS PERMANENT OR MERELY TEMPORARY IS SOMETHING WE CAN DISCUSS LATER.



AS MUCH FUN AS THIS WILL BE, MONSIEUR, MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THE ACTUAL S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT I CAPTURED AS THE DEMONSTRATION?



NOT A HORRIBLE IDEA. CONCIERGE.

WHY DON'T YOU BRING HIM HERE -- HE'LL BE NEXT.



WILL IT HURT?

LOTS, ACTUALLY.

BUT YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE PAIN.

WHAT A NICE GUY, EH?



DO YOU WANT TO BEG OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S MY FAVORITE PART.

I DON'T DO BEGGING...



NOT YET... BUT MAYBE I'LL REPROGRAM YOU WITH THE MIND OF A DOG.

I'LL BE SURE TO *RIP* YOUR THROAT OUT!



WHU --?!

NO. YOU WON'T HAVE TO.

IN THE FEW MOMENTS IT TOOK ME TO CHANGE OUT OF CONCIERGE'S UNIFORM, AND INTO MY OWN...

...I DIDN'T MISS MUCH.

AS EVERY EYE IN THE ROOM TURNED TOWARDS ME, I HAVE TO CONFESS, THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY...

...COMFORTABLE...

... ABOUT IT ALL.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I COULD REMEMBER -- WHICH ADMITTEDLY WASN'T VERY LONG AGO -- I FELT THIS IS WHO I WAS.

THIS IS WHAT I AM.

THIS IS WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO.



THE NAME IS LEVASSEUR.

LAURENT LEVASSEUR.

KIAK

KIAK



...INSTEAD, I THROW
MYSELF INTO THE
CENTER OF IT ALL!

SOMEONE --
ANYONE -- GET
HIM!

GET
ME?
NICE
THOUGHT.
BUT...

...WHAT
DO YOU
GET...

... THE
GUY WHO
HAS...

...EVERYTHING?

OH
WAIT --
I GOT
IT:

YOU
CAN ALL TURN
YOURSELVES IN
TO THE LOCAL
AUTHITIES --

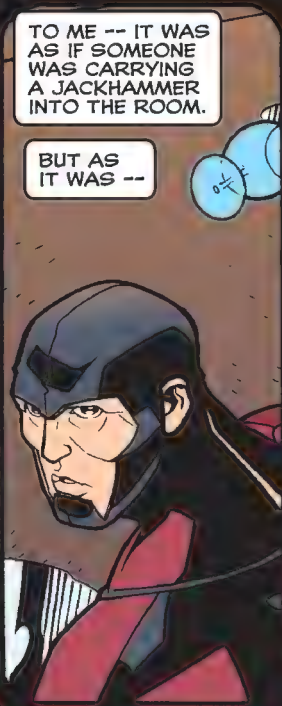
-- I
COULD TAKE
THE CREDIT AND
LAND AN EXCLUSIVE
TELL-ALL BOOK
DEAL --

-- AND
WE ALL LIVE
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER!



THAT SOUND ---?!

WHY COULDN'T ANYONE ELSE HEAR IT?



TO ME -- IT WAS AS IF SOMEONE WAS CARRYING A JACKHAMMER INTO THE ROOM.

BUT AS IT WAS --



-- IT TURNED OUT MY HYPERHEARING WAS PICKING UP THE SOUND OF KINGPIN ABOUT TO STRIKE!

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE INTERFERED IN AFFAIRS THAT ARE NONE OF YOUR CONCERN, Mr. LEVASSEUR.



YOU KNOW US FRENCH -- NATURALLY CURIOUS.

WHAM

I TRIED TO SOUND CASUAL...

...BUT THE TRUTH OF
THE MATTER IS...

... I WAS MAKING
THIS UP AS I
WENT ALONG!

PART OF THAT
MEANT LETTING
MY BODY ACT
INSTINCTIVELY --

YOU'RE QUICK,
I'LL GIVE YOU
THAT.

MERCI. AND I'LL GIVE
YOU A KICK IN
THE CHEST!

-- FOR ALL THE
GOOD IT DID!

I'D HAVE HAD BETTER
LUCK TRYING TO KNOCK
OVER A MOUNTAIN
WITH A SPOON.

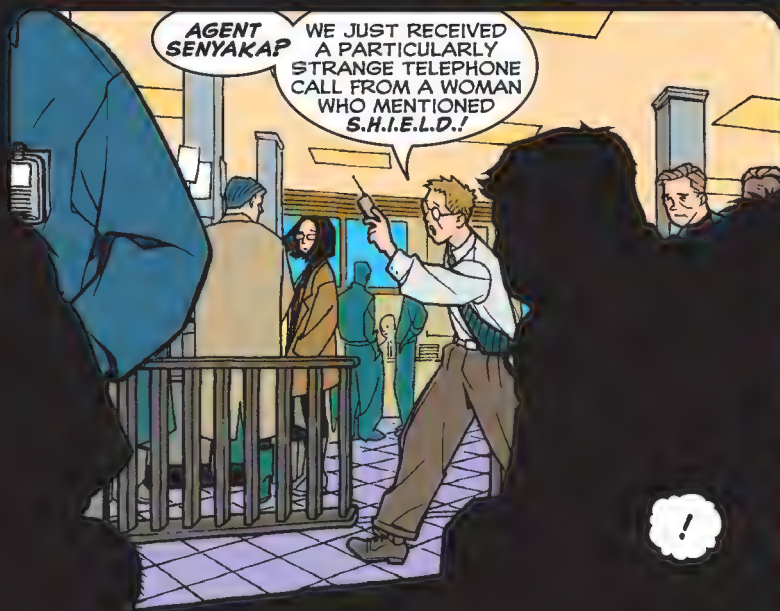
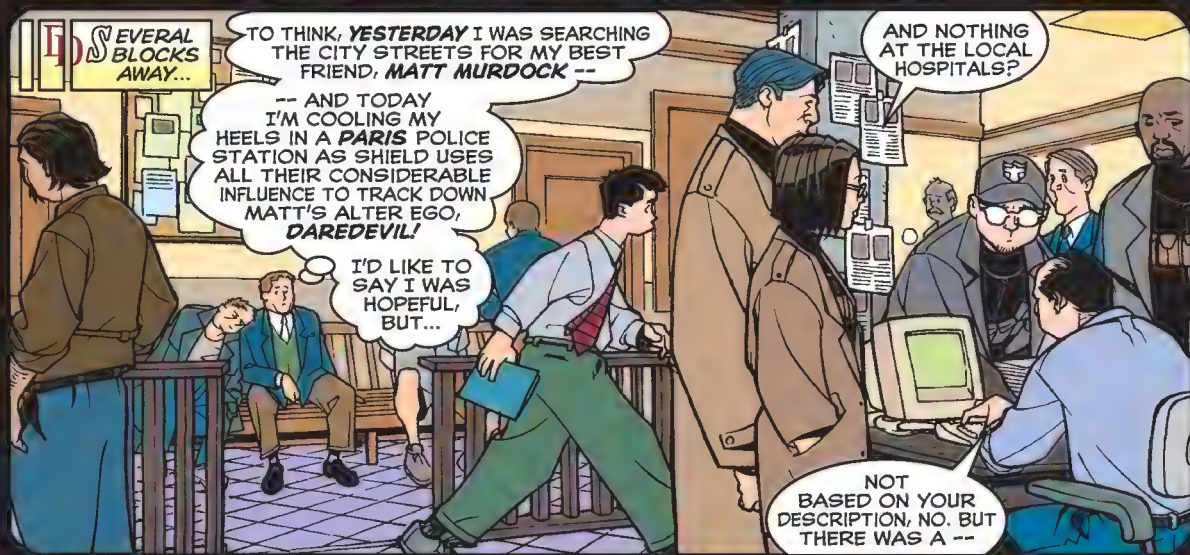
ARE YOU
FINISHED?

UNMPH

FOR THE
MOMENT.

I HAVE
NEVER BEEN A
FAN OF WOULD-BE
HEROES WITH A
SENSE OF
HUMOR.

EVEN THOUGH
THINGS LOOKED
BAD, I TOOK
SOLACE IN THE
KNOWLEDGE --

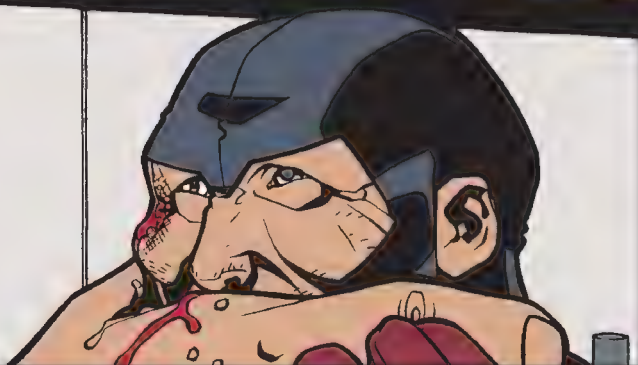


ALL OF WHICH BRINGS US
PRETTY MUCH UP TO SPEED.

SO, NOW I KNOW
HOW I GOT HERE...

...THE TRICK NOW
IS FIGURING HOW
TO GET OUT OF
THIS MESS.

IF ONLY
I COULD
REMEMBER
WHO I AM...



...I CAN'T HELP THINKING
THAT WOULD MAKE ALL
OF THIS SO MUCH EASIER!

NOT THAT THIS
HASN'T BEEN A BLAST,
MONSIEUR FISK, BUT
I REALLY MUST
BE --

NO ONE
LEAVES.

-- I
REALLY MUST
BE SITTING
BACK DOWN
AND ENJOYING
THE SHOW.
SIR.

MAX, USE
YOUR SYNAPSE
DISRUPTING POWER
TO SHOW OUR GUESTS
HERE THAT THEIR
RESOURCES WOULD BE WELL
SPENT ON THIS ENDEAVOR.



GLADLY,
BOSS.

I OWE
THIS GUY
FOR MAKING
ME LOOK
STUPID.

...THIS IS THE LAST THE
WORLD WILL EVER KNOW --

-- OF LAURENT
LEVASSEUR?

WHY DO I GET
THE DISTINCT
IMPRESSION...



WHOA.

IT'S LIKE LICKING AN ELECTRIC
BLANKET WHILE STANDING IN
A BUCKET OF ICE WATER.

I'M ASSUMING
ANYWAY.



MATT
MURDOCK.

RINGSIDE.

CHEERING
ON DAD.

BUT THE CONTAMINATION
HAD POSITIVE EFFECTS.

SENSES HEIGHTENED
BEYOND MY CONTROL.

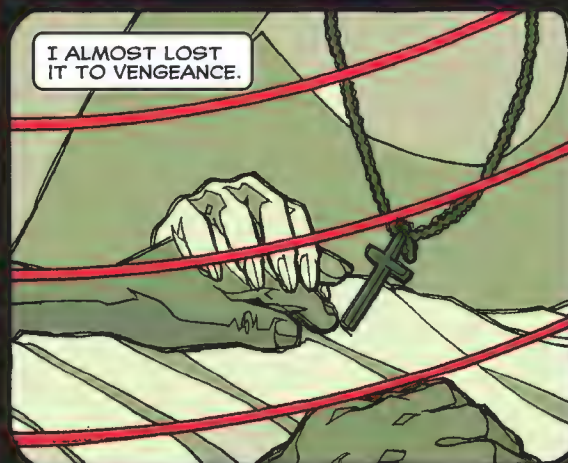
SON?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME, SON?
...YOU'RE A HERO, BOY.

WILSON FISK,
KINGPIN OF
CRIME.



THE ANTITHESIS OF
EVERYTHING I BELIEVE
IN.

I ALMOST LOST
IT TO VENGEANCE.



IN WHAT FEELS LIKE LESS
THAN A FRACTION OF AN
INSTANT OF A MOMENT --

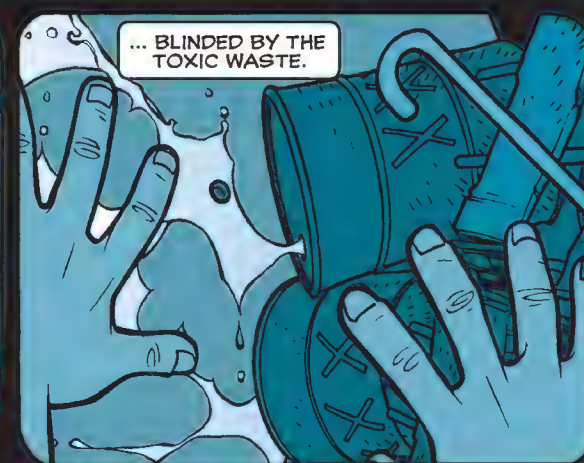
-- MY ENTIRE LIFE
FLASHES BEFORE ME.

MY ENTIRE
LIFE.



SAVING THAT
BLIND MAN...

... AT THE COST OF
MY OWN EYESIGHT...



... BLINDED BY THE
TOXIC WASTE.



UNTIL *STICK*
TAUGHT ME
THAT CONTROL...



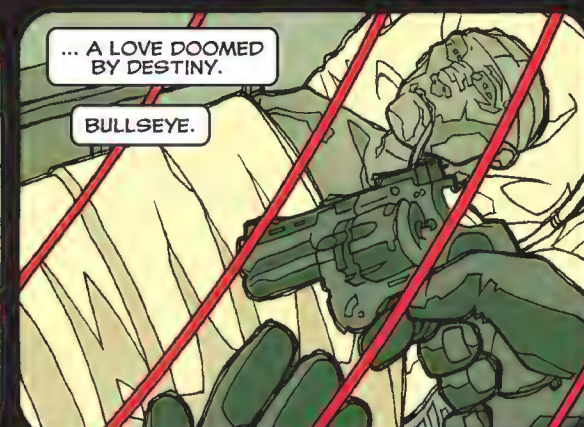
... AND MORE.

FOGGY NELSON,
MY PARTNER.

KAREN PAGE, MY
SECRETARY...

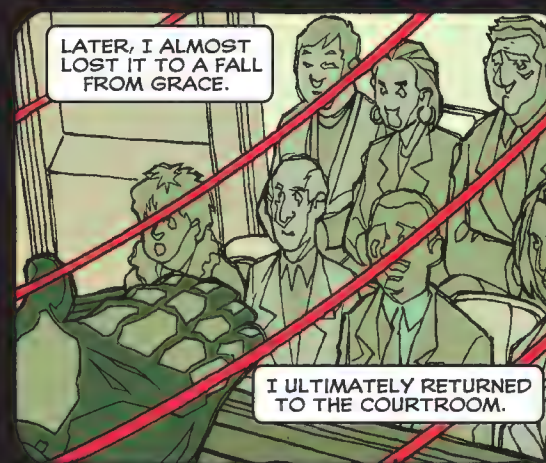


ELEKTRA...



... A LOVE DOOMED
BY DESTINY.

BULLSEYE.



LATER, I ALMOST
LOST IT TO A FALL
FROM GRACE.

I ULTIMATELY RETURNED
TO THE COURTROOM.



LAWYER BY DAY...

... *DAREDEVIL* --
THE MAN WITHOUT
FEAR -- BY NIGHT!

THAT IS
WHO I AM.

Um,
BOSS.
I THINK
WE HAVE A
PROBLEM
HERE.

WHAT KIND
OF PROBLEM,
SYNAPSE?

WELL, I'VE BEEN
DOING THIS REWIRING
THING FOR A
FEW YEARS
NOW...
...AND I'VE
GOTTEN A LOT OF
REACTIONS.

BUT
NOBODY
HAS EVER...
SMILED?

MAYBE
BECAUSE NO
ONE'S EVER
ENJOYED
IT.

AND IN CASE IT DOESN'T THANKS.
COME UP LATER,
MAX...?

LOADS.

THAT
VOICE ---?!

KWAk

Shhh.
YOU'LL
RUIN THE
SURPRISE!

KIK

URP?!

I CAN...
SEEP

BUT...
HOW?

MAYBE I BETTER
FIGURE THAT
OUT LATER.

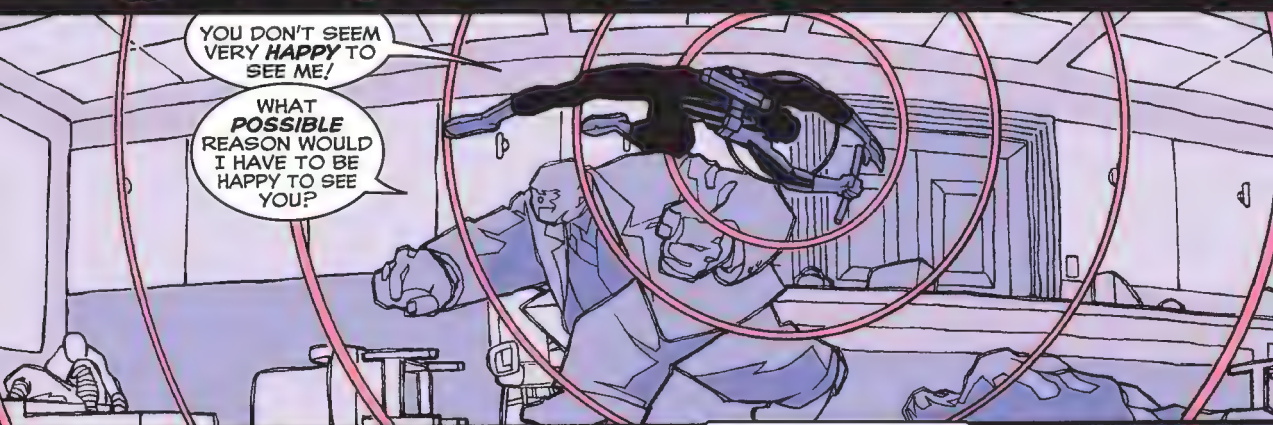
AS
NICE AS IT
IS TO SEE
YOU AGAIN,
FISK --



HAVE TO **FOCUS**...CAN'T LET MY **EYESIGHT** DISTRACT ME.

CONCENTRATE ON MY RADAR SENSE...AND...

...**PERFECT!**



Ummm...NOW YOU'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO **SHARE** WITH THE **FORTUNE TELLER** LADY WHO READS THE **LUMPS** ON YOUR HEAD.

I MUST
ADMIT TO
BEING IMPRESSED,
DAREDEVIL, IF ONLY
SLIGHTLY.

DESPITE
THE OVERLY
ELABORATE
DISGUISE --

-- THE PHYSICAL
ALTERATIONS
TO YOUR
APPEARANCE --

-- EVEN
THE DETAILED
FRENCH PERSONA
YOU HAVE
ADOPTED --

-- YOU ARE
AS PROFOUND AN
IRRITATION AS
EVER!

STOP --
YOU'RE MAKING
ME BLUSH!

KIK

WULPHN!

WHAM

THIS EYESIGHT KEEPS
PROVING TO BE A
DISTRACTION!

DOWN
AGAIN? WHY DO
I GET THE SENSE YOU
ARE AS CONFOUNDED BY
YOUR INVOLVEMENT
IN ALL OF THIS
AS I AM?

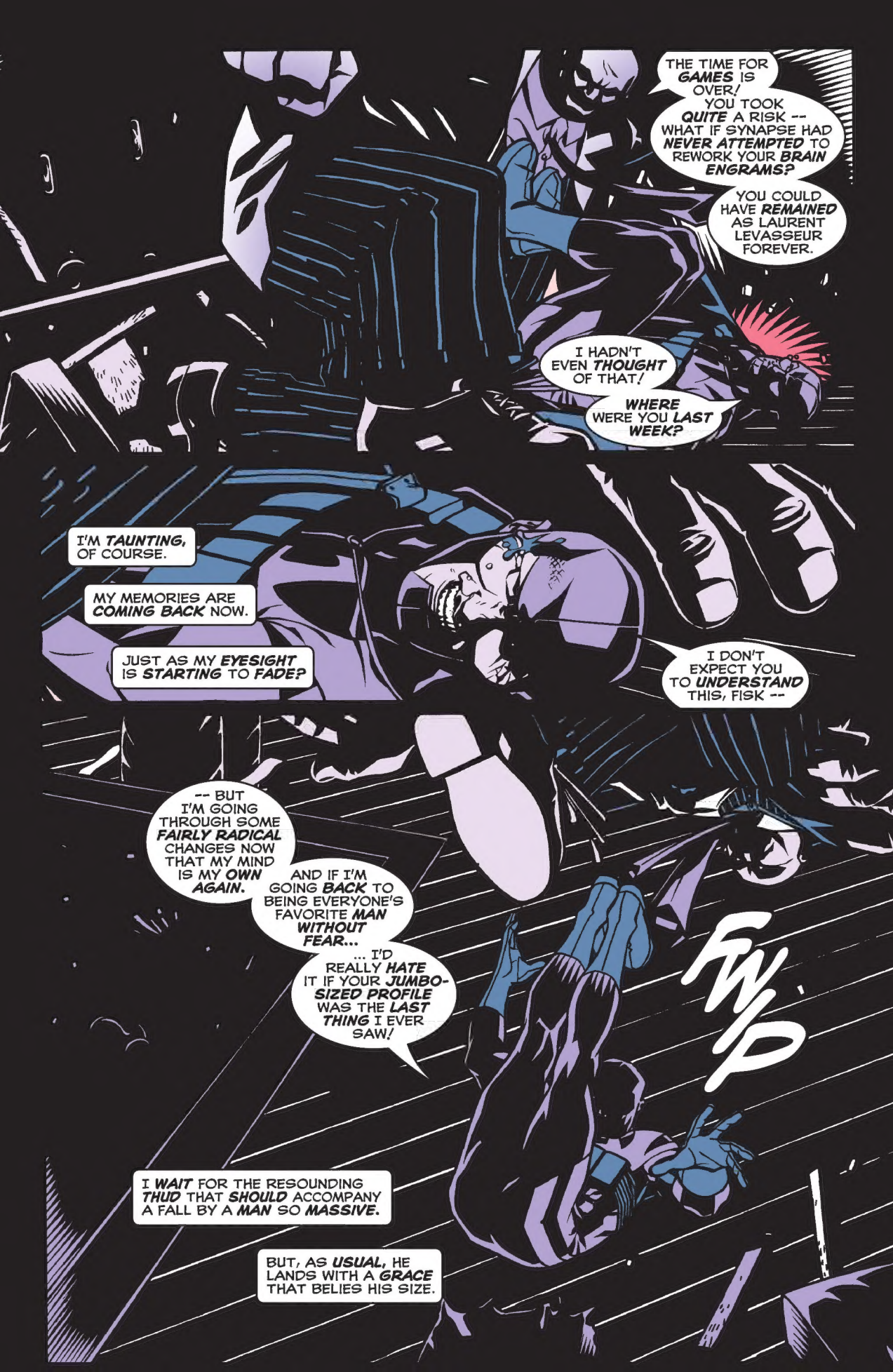
COULD
IT BE YOU'D
ALREADY
HAD YOUR MIND
REWIRED BEFORE
YOU GOT
HERE?!

COULD IT BE
YOU WERE WAITING
FOR SYNAPSE TO
MAKE HIS ATTEMPT,
COUNTING ON HIM
TO FREE YOU?

WOW,
YOU'RE GOOD
AT THIS.

CAN WE
PLAY "TRUTH
OR DARE"
NEXT?

WHAM



THE TIME FOR
GAMES IS
OVER!
YOU TOOK
QUITE A RISK --
WHAT IF SYNAPSE HAD
NEVER ATTEMPTED TO
REWORK YOUR **BRAIN**
ENGRAMS?

YOU COULD
HAVE **REMAINED**
AS LAURENT
LEVASSEUR
FOREVER.

I HADN'T
EVEN **THOUGHT**
OF THAT!

WHERE
WERE YOU **LAST**
WEEK?

I'M **TAUNTING**,
OF COURSE.

MY MEMORIES ARE
COMING BACK NOW.

JUST AS MY **EYESIGHT**
IS **STARTING TO FADE?**

I DON'T
EXPECT YOU
TO **UNDERSTAND**
THIS, FISK --

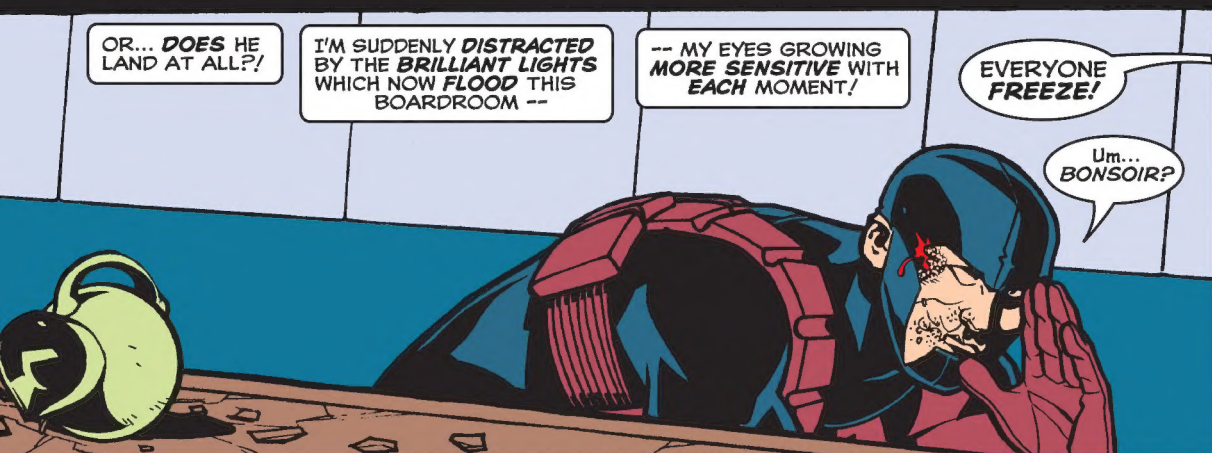
-- BUT
I'M GOING
THROUGH SOME
FAIRLY RADICAL
CHANGES NOW
THAT MY MIND
IS MY **OWN**
AGAIN.

AND IF I'M
GOING **BACK** TO
BEING EVERYONE'S
FAVORITE **MAN**
WITHOUT
FEAR...

... I'D
REALLY **HATE**
IT IF YOUR **JUMBO-**
SIZED PROFILE
WAS THE **LAST**
THING I EVER
SAW!

I **WAIT** FOR THE RESOUNDING
THUD THAT **SHOULD** ACCOMPANY
A FALL BY A **MAN** SO **MASSIVE.**

BUT, AS **USUAL**, HE
LANDS WITH A **GRACE**
THAT BELIES HIS SIZE.



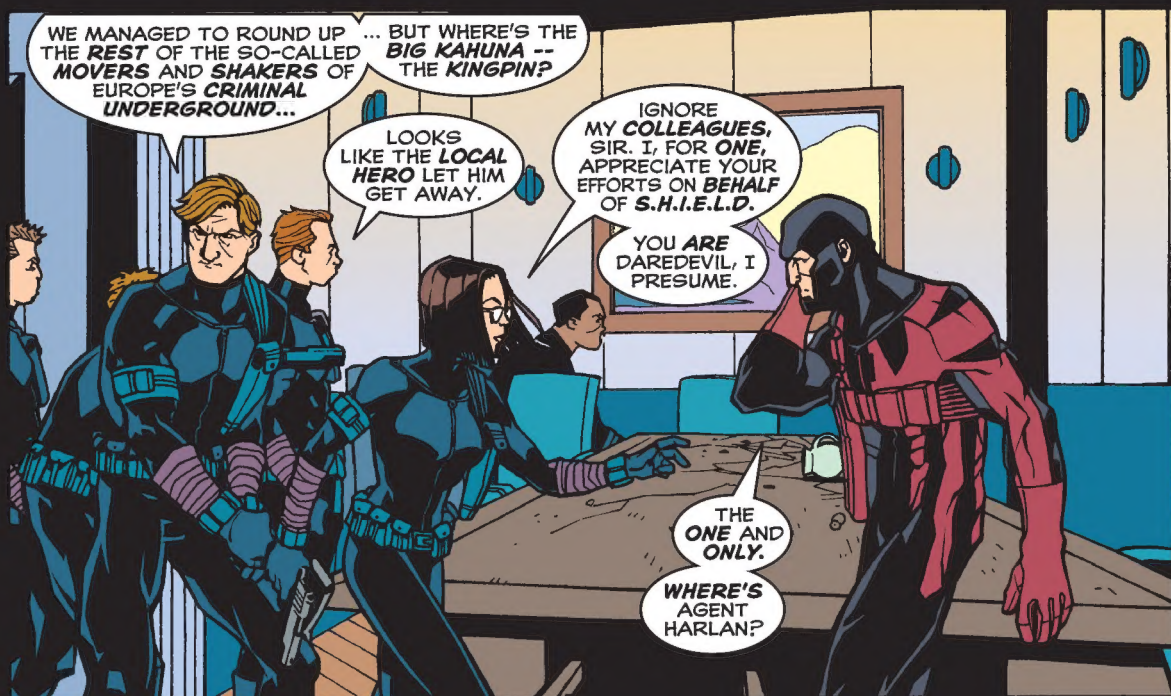
OR... **DOES** HE
LAND AT ALL?!

I'M SUDDENLY **DISTRACTED**
BY THE **BRILLIANT LIGHTS**
WHICH NOW **FLOOD** THIS
BOARDROOM --

-- MY EYES GROWING
MORE SENSITIVE WITH
EACH MOMENT!

**EVERYONE
FREEZE!**

Um...
BONSOIR?



WE MANAGED TO ROUND UP
THE **REST** OF THE SO-CALLED
MOVERS AND **SHAKERS** OF
EUROPE'S **CRIMINAL**
UNDERGROUND...

... BUT WHERE'S THE
BIG KAHUNA --
THE **KINGPIN?**

LOOKS
LIKE THE **LOCAL**
HERO LET HIM
GET AWAY.

IGNORE
MY **COLLEAGUES**,
SIR. I, FOR **ONE**,
APPRECIATE YOUR
EFFORTS ON **BEHALF**
OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.**

YOU **ARE**
DAREDEVIL, I
PRESUME.

THE
ONE AND
ONLY.

WHERE'S
AGENT
HARLAN?



**DEAD. IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT.**

HE
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
HAPPY TO
KNOW THAT HIS
BROTHER'S
DEATH LAST
WEEK **WASN'T**
IN VAIN.



AT
LEAST YOU
BROKE UP THIS
PARTICULAR
CRIME
RING.

AND
WE **MANAGED**
TO **CAPTURE**
THE **KING** --



DON'T EVEN
BOTHER
SAYING IT,
TIA.
HE'S
NOWHERE
TO
BE SEEN.

HE **NEVER** IS...
WHEN HE DOESN'T
WANT TO BE.

IT IS *SOMETIME*
LATER...

...AND THE *LOCAL GENDARMES* HAVE
TAKEN ON THE *TASK OF CLEAN-UP.*

WHICH *CLEARLY*
INCLUDES ME.

AGENT SENYAKA ASSURES ME
THE *CALLOGEN INJECTIONS* TO
MY *NOSE, CHEEKS AND BROW*
WILL EVENTUALLY FADE --

-- RETURNING MY *FACE* TO ITS
FORMER GLORY, SUCH AS IT IS.

A FEW *SOLID RINSES* AND
I'LL EVEN HAVE MY *FAMILIAR*
RED HAIR BACK AGAIN.

THOSE ARE THE
EASY CHANGES.

I'D BE *LYING* IF I DIDN'T
ADMIT I'LL MISS THE *SIDE-*
EFFECT OF MY *REWIRED MIND.*

I'LL MISS BEING ABLE
TO *SEE* AGAIN.

LAURENT?!

LAURENT --
YOU'RE ALIVE!

THAT'S...
ONE WAY OF
PUTTING
IT.

AS ALIVE
AS I *EVER*
WAS.

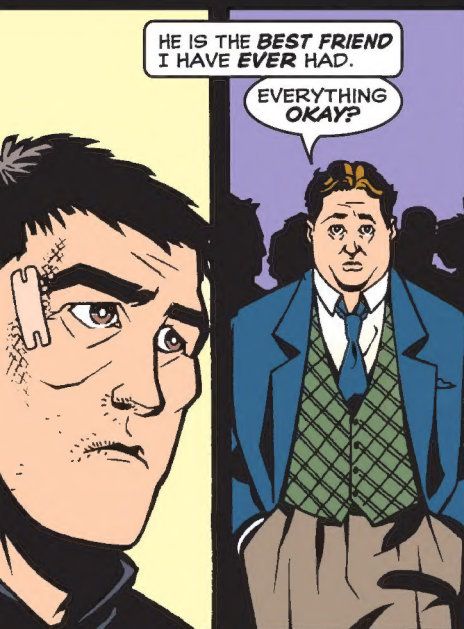
WHAT'S *THAT*
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?

NOTHING.
IT'S NICE...

...TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.

Um...
DAREDEVIL?

FOGGY.



FINI